



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 2002

I am pleased to send warm greetings to 4-H members across our Nation as you celebrate your centennial anniversary.

One hundred years ago, agents from land-grant colleges of agriculture, farmer organizations, and educators established clubs for rural students to advance agricultural technology and youth development through "learning by doing." These clubs researched and implemented new ideas and practices that helped create strong support for the passage of the Smith-Lever Act in 1914. This legislation established the Cooperative Extension Service, under which the boys and girls clubs became the 4-H Youth Development Program.

Today, 4-H offers a variety of programs ranging from leadership training and career development to home improvement and computer technology. I salute the more than 600,000 volunteers who annually lead the 4-H program and the nearly 7 million young people involved in what has become the largest youth development program in the United States. The mission of 4-H, helping young people to build life skills and to become productive citizens, will remain as important as ever.

Laura joins me in sending our best wishes for a memorable 100th anniversary celebration.